

Testimony of Assistant Secretary Derian Before the Subcommittee
on Inter-American Affairs of the Committee on Internal Relations

House of Representatives

Arms Trade in the Western Hemisphere

Mr. Yatron. What about the Ex-Im Bank Loan for Argentina?

Ms. Derian. The section 2(B)(1)(b) of the Ex-Im Bank Act requires that the bank in consultation with the State Department take human rights into account in granting loans. When the bank in conformity with the statute consults with the Department, we advise against proceeding with the transaction during these days with Argentina.

The reason for our advice was the continuing violation of basic human rights by Argentina. The systematic use of torture, summary execution of political dissidents, the disappearance and the imprisonment of thousands of individuals without charge, including mothers, churchmen, nuns, labor leaders, journalists, professors and members of human rights organizations, and the failure of the government of Argentina to fulfill its commitment to allow visit by the Inter-American Commission on human rights.

We have advised Argentina that the United States has a sincere desire for improved relations and that we continue to hope that measurable improvement in the human rights situation there will allow the U.S. government to adopt a more forthcoming attitude in the near future.

In that line, I visited Argentina three times last year. Assistant Secretary of State at the time, Terry Todman, visited a number of times. The secretary of State went in the late fall. Under Secretary Newsom has just returned. We have continuing high level discussions about these matters with the government of Argentina.

Washington, D. C.
August 9, 1978

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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